

16. A method of determining whether a subject with squamous cell carcinoma has a lymph node containing cancerous cells, the method comprising:

determining a level of maspin gene expression in a biological sample from a subject with squamous cell carcinoma; and

comparing the level with a threshold level of maspin gene expression, wherein a level of maspin gene expression in the biological sample below the threshold level indicates that the subject has a lymph node containing cancerous cells. --